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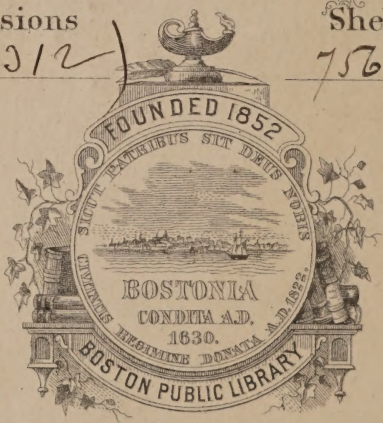

Received Feb. 26, 1891.

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CONSTITUTION

OF

COUNCILS OF P. L. L.

OF MASSACHUSETTS,

ADOPTED BY

THE GRAND COUNCIL

OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

For the uniform government of Councils of P. L. L. in Massachusetts, the Grand Council have adopted the following Constitution.

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1867.

B.H.

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Feb. 26, 1891.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS AND PRIN CIPLES.

The right of Life, Liberty and Property is sacred and inherent in the people, and the Constitutions of the United States and of Massachusetts so declare; and the laws of this Commonwealth should be made for the preservation and protection of those rights.

Whereas, during the past fifteen years Sumptuary Laws have been enacted by the Legislature of Massachusetts, through fanatical and secret influences, under the pretence of moral reform and the public good: and whereas, such laws are dangerous to, and imperil the liberties of the people, and authorize search, seizure and confiscation of Property, and are contrary to the spirit and subversive of the principles of a republican government; and whereas, such laws have only been, and can only be enforced by coercive means and summary process; and believing that the time has arrived to overthrow such power and influence, and restore in this State just legislation, which shall make laws based upon the common good, and thereby command the respect and receive the support of the whole community, this Council has adopted the following Constitution and rules for its government.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be Council No.— P. L. L. of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE II.

The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by written ballot; an Executive Committee of Five, a Finance Committee of Three, and a Committee of Membership of Three, who shall be elected in such manner as the Council shall determine, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified; an Instructor, Conductor and an Inside and Outside guard, who shall be appointed by the President. The term of office shall be three months, and new officers shall be chosen or appointed at the last meeting in the months of December, March, June and September.

ARTICLE III.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Organization; shall call special meetings when necessary; shall preserve order; shall have with him at all times a copy of the Constitution and the Charter of the Council; shall see that all of-

ficers perform their duties; announce the result of all ballotings to the Council; decide all questions of order; give the casting vote when there is a tie; represent the Council in the Grand Council; sign all warrants for money to be paid out of the Treasury, and perform such other duties as may be required of him by the Constitution of this Council.

ARTICLE IV.

The Vice President shall assist the President; shall deliver the second charge to the initiated; receive reports of the Guards, and in the absence of the President, shall preside at all meetings, and represent the Council in the Grand Council.

ARTICLE V.

The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the Council,—issue notices of meetings,—conduct all correspondence ordered by the Council; make all returns required by the Grand Council; keep accurate accounts of all moneys received, and pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; and keep a true and accurate account between each member and the Council. His books shall be open to inspection when the Council is in session; and at the expiration of his term of office, he shall make a detailed report of his doings and give up all books and papers to his successor. For these services

he shall receive such compensation as the Council shall determine.

ARTICLE VI.

The Treasurer shall receive all sums from every source, keep full and correct accounts thereof, and pay them out only on orders endorsed by the President and Finance Committee. At the last meeting in every quarter he shall make a detailed report of the condition of the treasury, and at the expiration of his term of office, shall pass over all moneys, books and papers to his successor in office.

ARTICLE VII.

The instructor shall instruct all candidates in the unwritten work of the order, after they shall have signed the Constitution and paid the initiation fee.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Conductor shall take charge of all candidates for initiation; see that all persons present at meetings have the grand pass-word, and generally assist the President in conducting business and preserving order.

ARTICLE IX.

The Guards shall have charge of all the doors, and allow no person to be admitted without the passwords. They shall make their reports to the Vice President.

ARTICLE X.

The duty of the Committee on Membership shall be to receive and pass upon all propositions for membership and report at each meeting.

ARTICLE XI.

The Finance Committee shall pass upon all bills, and approve all orders, receive and audit the Treasurer's report, and report to the Council at the first meeting in each quarter a list of all bills and orders approved.

ARTICLE XII.

The Executive Committee shall have the general charge of the business of the Council, and may at all times in the recess of the Council, transact such business as may be necessary.

ARTICLE XIII.

Every admission to membership shall be voted upon separately, and five negative votes shall reject. But a second or third vote may be had, and if five votes still appear against him he shall be declared rejected, and no person so rejected, shall again be presented for membership for one month. Any case of rejection may be appealed to the Executive Committee of the Grand Council, who may reverse the decision and initiate said Candidate in the Council at Large if they deem it proper.

ARTICLE XIV.

The Initiation Fee shall not exceed One Dollar.

ARTICLE XV.

The regular meetings of the Council shall be held not less than once in each week, and special meetings may be called at any time by the President or Executive Committee.

XVI.

Any brother who shall divulge the passwords, signs, or any other prohibited information of the operations of the Council, shall be liable to expulsion, or such other punishment as the Council may determine.

ARTICLE XVII.

This Council shall be subject to and under the regulation of the Grand Council, and shall not alter or amend this Constitution, without the consent of the Grand Council first being obtained, but may make by-laws for its own government, not inconsistent with the requirements of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII.

This Council shall, on the first day of every month, report through their Secretary the number of Members belonging to the Council—the amount of initiation fees received during the previous month, and accompany the report with

ten per cent. of the money so received, to the Grand Council. On the day of election of officers the names of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Delegate to the Grand Council, shall be reported to the Grand Council.

ARTICLE XIX.

All residents and voters of a ward of any city, or town, shall be inelligible to membership in Councils in other wards and towns, when there are Councils established in their own wards or towns.

ARTICLE XX.

Whenever voters in any ward of a city, or in any town, shall have become members of a Council in any other ward of a city or town previous to the establishment of a Council within their own ward or town, upon the establishment of a Council within their own Representative district, a certificate of membership shall be issued from the Council to which they belong, and such certificate may admit them to membership in the Council in the town or ward where they reside, without the payment of the initiation fee, upon a majority vote of said Council.

ARTICLE XXI.

The President of each Council shall be ex-officio a member of the Grand Council, with all the powers and privileges of members thereof, dur-

ing the term of his office, and when superseded shall retire and give place to his successors in office.

ARTICLE XXII.

Where there are two or more Councils established in one Representative District, in the nomination of Candidates for Representatives in such district, each Council shall be entitled to one delegate, and further representation in proportion to their respective number of voters in their several wards or towns. And in the nomination of Senatorial Candidates they shall be entitled to representation on the same basis.

Rules adopted for the Government of Councils.

The following shall be the order of business in the regular meetings of the Council :

1—Calling the meeting to order at the appointed hour by the President.
2—Stationing the Guards.
3—Examination of the members present by the Conductor.
4—Reading the records of the last meeting by the Secretary.
5—Propositions for Membership.
6—Report of Committee on Membership.
7—Voting for Candidates.
8—Initiation.
9—Reports of Committees.
10—General Business.

One rap of the gavel calls to order or seats the members,—two raps, all will rise.

This order of business may be suspended or changed upon vote of two thirds of the members present.

It shall not be in order for any member to speak more than once upon any question without the consent of the Council.

Any member wishing to speak, shall rise in his place and respectfully address the chair, confine his remarks to the question under discussion, and avoid personalities.

When a member has the floor it shall not be in order for any other member to interrupt him, except upon a question of order. In such case the member speaking shall desist until the President decides the question of order. If adverse to the speaker he shall take his seat, but if not he may resume.

Should the decision of the chair be appealed from, no other question shall be entertained until that is decided, and if the decision of the chair is sustained, and in favor of the person who had the floor at the time he was interrupted, he shall again be awarded the floor.

When two persons rise to address the Chair, the person first recognized by the Chair shall have the floor.

Order of Initiation.

First—The Candidate will be presented by the Conductor before the President and take the first obligation.

Second—The Candidate will be conducted to the Vice President, who will administer the second obligation.

Third—He will be conducted to the Secretary, to sign the Constitution and pay the initiation fee.

Fourth—He will then be conducted to the Instructor who will give him the secret work.

(Mar., 1890, 20,000)

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